work and Rs. 1 lakh for aid in navigation work. So, this is the amount which was spent. The work is being speeded up. In the years to come, it will be completed.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: My question is why the money allotted was not spent. What is the reason for that? If there are any shortcomings, will the hon. Minister take care to see that whatever amount is sanctioned is spent?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the year 1995-96, almost a major portion of the money allotted was spent. I think you are referring to previous years. Mr. Minister.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, allotment is made every year. They are making some allotment. Provision of money is envisaged in the Plan. The amount spent is one thing and the allotment made is a different thing. Within the allotment, expenditure is incurred. We are asking for a larger allotment. We will do it in the years to come.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Please complete at least some portion at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerra Narayanaswamy. Mr. Narayanaswamy, have you any question on Kerala? If your question is out-side Kerala, please don't ask such a question.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last many years, there are demands for an inland waterways project on river Godavari. Whether the Government has sanctioned an inland waterways project on river Godavari from Bhadrachalam to Rajahmundry to transport coal and minerals to Rajahmundry railway head?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask another question.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, this does not come under the purview of the present question. I need a notice for this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Question No. 204

गुजरात के हथकरघा बुनकरों की समस्यायें

*204. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह गंगरोला: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में हथकरघा क्षेत्र में कार्यरत श्रमिकों की जिला-वार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है;

(ख) राज्य में हथकरघा बुनकरों द्वारा किन-किन मुख्य समस्याओं का सामना किया जा रहा है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उनकी समस्याओं के संबंध में कोई अध्ययन करवाया है; और

(घ) हथकरघा बुनकरों की समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement

(a) Data about number of labourers in handloom sector is not maintained.

(b) The main problems being faced by the handloom weavers in the Gujarat State are generally in regard to inadequate production, productivity, market support, design inputs, cooperative coverage etc.

(c) Problems of Handloom weavers are being constantly studied in all the States including Gujarat.

(d) On the basis of proposals received from the State Govt. of Gujarat, requisite assistance have been provided by the Govt. under various on-going schemes and programmes such as Handloom Development Centre, Janata Cloth, Market Development Assistance, Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Marketing facilities, Health Package, Thrift Fund, Decentralised training, Design inputs etc.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: माननीय सभापति महोदय, आज बुनकरों की क्या समस्या है? एक ही समस्या है कि बाजार में सूत नहीं है और सरकार में सत्य नहीं है। माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सूत की कीमत आज बढ़ गई है। यह कीमत बढ़ने से जो बुनकर कपड़ा बनाते है इसका भी दाम बढ़ गया है। पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी ने एक रिपोर्ट दी थी कि हैंडलूम के सूत की कीमत को कम किया

जाए। तो यह जो देश में बेरोज़गारी बढ़ रही है, इसमें थोड़ा सहयोग मिले। तो माननीय मंत्री जी से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सूत की कीमत कम करने के बारे में सरकार कुछ सोचती है और इसके बारे में सरकार क्या ठोस कदम उठाएगी?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, we have not received any complaint from the weavers of Gujarat that the price of cotton has gone up. Despite that, in 1993-94 we gave Rs. 15/- per Kilogram as subsidy. In 1995-96, we gave Rs. 20/- per Kilogram as subsidy.

Regarding other questions that the hon. Member has raised, we have been supporting the handloom sector through respective State Governments. Wherever the State Governments have spent the money, we are re-imbursing it. We have got 9 to 10 schemes for development of handlooms. If you want, I can give details about the money spent last year and prior to last year. So, if any specific complaint is proposed by the State Government, we will definitely look into it.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: सभापति महोदय, हैंडलूम डेवलपमेंट सेंटर के लिए सरकार ने ऐसा कानून बनाया है कि डेढ़ सौ लूम्स होने पर ही एक सेंटर की मंजूरी दी जाती है तो माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरी रिक्वेस्ट है कि पचास लूम्स इसके लिए रखें। इससे पूरे देश में छोटे-छोटे गांवों को इसका पूरा फायदा मिलेगा, छोटे-छोटे बुनकरों को भी सहायता मिलेगी। इसलिए मेरी माननीय मंत्री जी से रिक्वेस्ट है कि सरकार इस बारे में पूरे ध्यान से सोचे और पचास लूम्स होने पर एक सेंटर बना दे, सरकार इसका क्या उत्तर देगी?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, when this scheme was envisaged, it was 250 looms. Subsequently, a request came and we reduced it to 150 looms. Now, the hon Member is asking us to reduce it further to 50 looms. I do not know whether a centre with 50 looms will be viable. But, anyway, I will try. The target that is given to Gujarat Government is 24 centres, out of which the request came only for six. We have already given those six centres. If they want more centes, we are prepared to do that. I would also like to mention that we have spent nearly Rs. 20.42 lakhs for these six centres. For reducing it to 50 looms, I will condider it and take appropriate action, Sir.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, the hon Minister in his reply has said that data about the number of labourers in the handloom sector is not maintained. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the Petitions Committee of the last Lok Sabha had done an intensive survey on the plight of handloom weavers all over India. Irrespective of the States, the factors that were found were all the same. One, Sir, is that they have asked for identity cards for the handloom weavers so that we know as to how many people are involved in this skill. So, would the Government consider taking that up?

Secondly, Sir, the Budget unfortunately with all the hikes and the merry-making for all other sectors has given particular consideration to powerlooms and synthetic fibre, but no concessions have been made to the handloom sectror at all, as a result of which, Sir, the cotton cloth is becoming more and more expensive and the designs of the handloom sector are not protected because the powerlooms duplicate the patterns at quarter the price of what is being done by our master-weavers who are viewed as master-crafsmen also, Sir. Sir, talking of construction of India, handloom sector is the core sector which keeps our culture and our cultural ethos together. It reflects designs which have been handed down for centuries from masters to students and families. So, this sector is dying out as it is not economically viable. What steps is the Government going to take to protect this sector? Would the Government implement the recommendations made by the Petitions Committee of the Tenth Lok Sabha and under what time-frame are they considering to expedite it?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, a survey was conducted in the year 1987-88. As per that survey, people who are involved in this industry in Gujarat are 67,765. This includes weavers and their assistants. Sir, as far as development of handloom sector is concerned, we have several schemes. I appreciate what the hon. Member just now said that this sector reflectes our culture and we should maintain the handloom sector in a perfect order.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I think the hon. Minister did not follow what I asked. May I reframe it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Briefly.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, there are tonnes of handloom fabrics lying in godowns and they are not lifted because of obsolete technology and obsolete design planning. Nothing is being done for these handloom weavers. Would you consider making these units export-oriented units? Would you take up the recommendations of the Petitions Committee? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Petitions Committee received a petition whereby a survey was done all over India. Certain recommendations were made by that Committee. It is mandatory for the Government to take up these recommendations.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, I have not gone through the report of the Petitions Committee. I will go through that report of the Petitions Committee.

Secondly, for protecting the handloom sector, the Government is giving a lot of encouragement. Unfortunately, the State Governments are not coming forward to use it to the fullest extent. We would request all the State Governments to see that the money allotted to them is fully utilised.

Thirdly, we have also got designing centres. We have recently appointed 13 to 14 designers whom we are sending to each State to study the local requirements and prepare local designs, fashion technology and all that. Sir, keeping in view the exports available to us, we will try to improve this sector. I would request the concerned State also to co- operate with us to see that whatever amounts are available with the Government of India are utilised by the States to develop this industry and also to see that the men who are engaged in this sector get a better deal. We will do our best.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What about the identity cards?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Identity cards are done by the State Governments.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, this is an industry in which thousands of young unemployed youths and women can be employed. I would like to ask of the respected Minister, through you, Sir, as to how many new employment opportunities have been planned in this industry for this year and how much amount has been allocated for that. What are the new employment opportunities which you are going to create in the handloom sector?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, for new entrants we are giving an encouragement of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of new developed handlooms and we are trying to strengthen the co-operatives. Whatever help we are extending to this sector that would be through the State Governments and through these co-operatives. Unfortunately, in the country it is only 23 per cent of the weavers who are covered by these cooperatives. As most of the hon. Members know, most of these cooperatives are not functioning properly. So, our duty is to see to it and we will try to strengthen these cooperatives and whatever amount is spent, that is properly utilised by them. As far as development is concerned, after seven or eight years, it will be a free market where only the fittest can survive. So, keeping all that in view, we will try to strengthen this sector.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: How many employment opportunities have they planned to give this year through handloom sector?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: That depends upon the State Government's capacity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we go to the next question? Question No. 205.

बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की खराब स्थिति

*205. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार से होकर गुजरने वाले राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की मरम्मत के अभाव में उनकी स्थिति अत्यन्त खराब हो गयी है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) सरकार इन राजमार्गों की मरम्मत हेतु कौन-कौन से उपाय करने का विचार रखती है और कितने नये राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की घोषणा किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है?